

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-42. Claims 3-6, 8, 10-14, 17-20, 22, 25-29, 32-35 and 37-42 are allowed. Claims 1, 15 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 7, 9, 16, 21, 23, 31 and 36 are hereby amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 15, 16, 21, 23, 30, 31 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Li et al. (U.S. Patent 5,504,319). While disagreeing with the grounds of rejection (as argued in response to the previous Official Action), Applicant has canceled claims 1, 15 and 30 for the sake of expediting issuance of a patent on the allowed claims. Dependent claims 2, 7 and 9 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 6; claims 16, 21 and 23 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 20; and claims 31 and 36 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 35. Therefore, claims 2, 7, 9, 16, 21, 23, 31 and 36 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Li in view of Zlotnick et al. (U.S. Patent 5,737,439). In view of the patentability of amended claim 23, claim 24, which depends from claim 23, is believed to be in condition for allowance, as well.

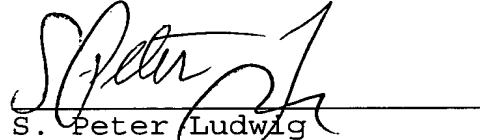
Applicant has studied the additional references cited by the Examiner and believes all the claims in the present patent application to be patentable over these references, whether taken individually or in any combination.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application

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are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Peter Ludwig", is written over a horizontal line.

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